

Chapel Comes to Defense Of Maligned John Dewey

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL, Assemblyman, 46th District
The United States Office of Education recently reported that more than 38 per cent of the young people who entered high school in 1948 quit before graduation. The same federal document says that only 30.4 per cent of those who entered high school in 1958 quit before the June, 1962 graduation exercises. Furthermore, there were fewer high school students failing to graduate in June, 1963 than in 1961 and 1962. This is true whether the total failing to graduate is figured in numbers or percentages. These statistics pertain at least to the original 48 States. The report before me does not clearly indicate whether or not Hawaii and Alaska were included.

The phrase "drop out" was originally coined with the idea of using "drop" as a verb, but today it is common to find official publications printing the word "dropout" as a noun.

I MENTION this because the English language constantly grows. Professional educators are specially fond of coining new words and phrases; many of the words having many syllables when words of one or two syllables would do just as well. Reading anything written or published by professional educators is a challenge to anyone who has not majored in "Education," originally called pedagogy. Both are fancy words for the art, science, practice, or profession of teaching.

John Dewey, who was born in 1859 and died in 1952, is blamed by many educators, parents and students for the decline of the public school system in the United States of America. These people base their criticism of John Dewey upon what "progressive" educators said about Dewey's ideas. In order to put the problem clearly before us, refer to Encyclopaedia Britannica, Volume 7, 1961 Edition, pages 186 and 297, under "Dewey, John." The whole story is too long to present in this column but on page 297, appears this:

"As early as 1897 Dewey wrote regarding the 'child study movement' that the features of child study against which criticism has been justly directed are the results partly of the exaggeration incident to all large movements in public inception, partly of the misdirected gyrations of those camp

followers . . . hanging about education as about all progressive forces . . . and partly of the unwise zeal of those who, lacking in stability, are blown about by every new wind of doctrine and lose the just perspective."

ON THE SAME page of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, appears this:
"By 1938, when Dewey was asked to discuss conflicting theories and practices of 'traditional' and 'progressive' education, he was moved to sharp criticism of educators who sought merely to interest or amuse students, disregarded organized subject matter in favor of mere activity on the part of students, and were content with mere vocational training."

The decrease in the number and percentage of "dropouts" in public high schools throughout the United States can be attributed at least in part to the fact that the pendulum is now swinging away from the so-called "progressive" educators and back to the fundamental American principle that taxpayers pay taxes to support the public schools.

RECENT STATISTICS regarding dropouts in the high schools not supported by public taxation are not available at this writing, but I have been told repeatedly by Roman Catholics, Lutherans, and various Protestant churches having high schools operated at the expense of their parishioners, that their high schools never adopted the so-called "progressive education" ideas which John Dewey himself denounced in 1897 and again in 1938 as perversions of his true philosophy of teaching. These same religious leaders who operate high schools at the expense of their own people also told me that they have never had the number or percentage of "dropouts" which took place in our tax-supported public high schools.

THE REFERENCE made by Dewey to vocational training in the Encyclopaedia Britannica must not be misinterpreted to indicate that Dewey was opposed to vocational training because he was not against it. He merely said that his teachings had been corrupted in public high schools which pretended to offer the "classical" or "tra-

ditional" high school curriculum originally intended for college preparation.

John Dewey, and many brilliant educators who did not agree with everything Dewey actually said and taught, said that students who did not want to attend college but wanted to learn a trade should receive vocational training. I concur.
I believe that plumbers, who

need only an eighth grade education plus two years of apprenticeship at the trade in California, are happier and make more net income on an average during a lifetime than the average Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Dentistry, lawyer, clergyman, engineer or contractor. This is just one example!

Watch those listless warm-weather appetites perk up with a pretty salad of meaty California cantaloupe rings, pineapple slices and pink grapefruit or orange sections. Arrange fruits or mint garnished salad plates. Top with a blend of mashed avocado and sour cream, seasoned to taste.

Camino Expects 13,000 Students

Fall semester registration closed Friday at El Camino College with an estimated 11,400 day and evening students enrolled.

Director of Student Personnel Merl F. Sloan indicated an additional 1,600 students are expected to enroll as late registrants on the opening day of school, Tuesday, Sept. 10. This would bring the total enrollment to a new record high of over 13,000.

Late registration hours have been set from 1 to 3 p.m. and 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Student Activities Building, with no enrollment accepted thereafter.

THE COUNSELING Office has set final placement testing dates today and tomorrow for those students who expect to enroll for the first time in college level courses in the areas of English, chemistry, languages, shorthand, and journalism.

Sept. 4 is the last date to take the test for entrance into mathematics courses. Reservations for these tests are available in the registration office.

To qualify for admission to El Camino College, an applicant must be 18 years of age or older or a high school graduate. He must be a legal resident of the El Camino College District or the Los Angeles Contract Area.

APPLICANTS are expected to forward transcripts of previous high school and college work to the college Registration office prior to registering. All students under 21 years of age, regardless of academic

load, must present evidence of poliomyelitis immunization before they may register.

Students 21 years of age or older must comply only if they carry more than 10 hours of instruction per week.
California has completed just over 33 per cent of the Federal-aid highway construction program designated for the state, compared to approximately 36 per cent completion for the country as a whole, an analysis of reports on the nationwide Interstate Highway System reveals.

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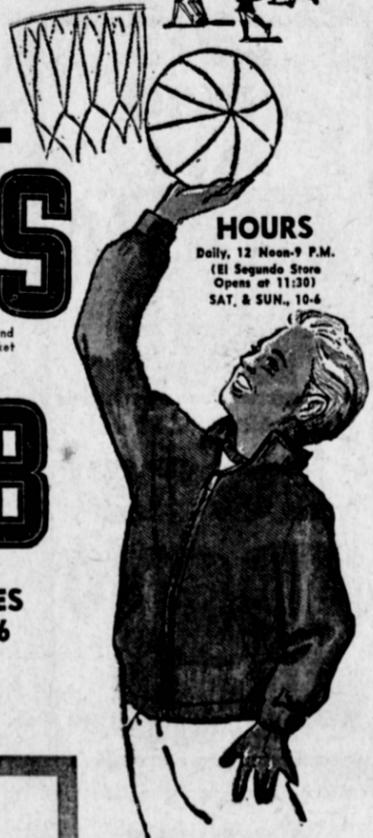
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